

**BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING
MINUTES**

March 18, 2015

Fire & EMS Headquarters, 20 Church Street , Training Room
Chairman Kenneth Picard, Selectman James Brochu, Selectman Robert J. Fleming
Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson, Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala,

The Selectmen joined Finance Committee members Paul Flaherty, Jonathan Calianos, and Shawn Craig, at their regularly scheduled meeting to discuss the FY 15/16 budget. The Town Clerk, Kelly McElreath was also in attendance to discuss possible dates for a special election for an override question.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Selectman Picard; Chainman Fleming joined the meeting later.

Chairman Flaherty asked the Town Manager to discuss any changes that may affect the FY 15/16 proposed budget. The draft budget is unfavorable (1,756,746).

Ms. Robinson had drafted a list of possible reductions on the Town side that could be considered, as well as items to be added to the budget or planning for, and a preliminary list of budget shortfalls.

Potential Reductions

Waste Disposal Expense	\$ 16,000.00	Reduce per revised contract
Fin. Comm. Reserve Fund	5,000.00	Reduce to \$20,000
Cons. Expense Budget	1,000.00	Eliminate \$ for plowing of parking areas
COA Program Expense	1,000.00	Level fund this account
DPW Director Salary	1,000.00	Per new contract
Highway Mechanic Asst	14,498.00	Remove from the budget
Reduce Snow/Ice Budget	10,000.00	Level fund this account
Fire Dept. Call Stipends	4,200.00	Level fund this account at 21 positions
Fire - Call Retention Prog.	5,000.00	Eliminate this program
Fire Vehicle Maint.	5,000.00	Fund at \$30,000 Requested
Police Wages	7,850.00	Reduce Lieutenant position to Sergeant
Cons. Fund Contribution	5,000.00	Fund in the Fall at the STM
Paperless Mtg Technology	5,000.00	Utilize Website upgrade to achieve this
Eliminate BOS Intern	10,000.00	Remove from the budget
OPEB Contribution	10,000.00	Reduce Budget to \$40,000
Town Manager's Car	26,000.00	Replace in the Fall at the STM
Truck #24	130,000.00	Replace Dump Body Only - stainless steel

TOTAL \$ 256,548.00

Budget Additions

Budget for Wages COLA	\$ 38,000.00	1% of wages
Historical Comm. Computer	\$ 1,000.00	New Desktop Machine

Budget Shortfall Items

Snow/ice deficit		\$ 138,125.00	Winter of 2014/15!!
Fire Department Wages		15,000.00	Hiring a temp. position to fill a FF out sick
Nursing Wages		2,500.00	Blackstone IMA Agreement
Town Accountant Wages			Chart of Accts project in Summer 2014
Town Counsel Expense		5,000.00	Various ongoing legal matters
Ambul. Service Supplies		12,000.00	Med 2 Expenses, ALS equip. & drugs
TOTAL		\$ 172,625.00	

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26 The school committee certified a 31.8 million dollar budget which can only be achieved through
27 an override the Town Manager expressed to the Finance Committee. This represents a 14.4
28 percent increase over last year. Superintendent Maruszczak had recently noted that state aid to
29 the district had been trending downward, and was likely to continue in that direction. The
30 overrides, he said, would sustain the district for at least several years.

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32 Ms. Robinson noted that it is not possible to take it from the town side of the budget without
33 overwhelming service cuts. All agreed the override would be needed to pay for both local
34 services and the school district budget.

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36 The Selectmen and the Finance Committee then discussed the timing and amount for the
37 override. They agreed the override ballot vote be a special election and not incorporated in the
38 Town's annual election because the Annual Town Meeting is set for May 7th and this could
39 inhibit efforts to inform the public about the budget and the override request.

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41 All agreed to hold the election on May 18th and further agreed to convene another Town Meeting
42 to vote for an underride if Upton approves the override and Mendon does not in order give the
43 money back to taxpayers.

44
45 Further consideration in the budget will be given to the stipends for elected officials, deleting the
46 computer for the historical commission and projections from FEMA for snow/ice grant funds to
47 cover a portion of the deficit and incorporating potential deductions.

48
49 To be considered at a later date will be to change the way the Town does business by scheduling
50 two Town meetings; one in the Spring to focus on boiler plate articles and in the Fall to focus on
51 heavy hitting items which could help reduce projections.

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53 The Finance Committee will schedule its public budget hearing on April 29th.

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55 **ADJOURN MEETING**

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57 **Motion #9:** At 8:41 Motion was made by Chairman Fleming to adjourn the regular meeting.

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59 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous: Selectman Brochu.

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61 Respectfully submitted,

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63 Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant